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REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action of 07/09/2008, the applicant has filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1-5, 8, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179).

In paragraph 5 of the Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179) further in view of *Reed et al.* (NS 7,590,996).

In paragraph 6 of the Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179) further in view of *Hyakutake et al.* (US 7,142,690).

In paragraph 7 of the Action, claims 9, 11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mori* (US 7,027,179) in view of *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) and *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000).

In paragraph 8 of the Action, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mori* (US 7,027,179) and *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000) further in view of *Hernandez* (US 6,650,428).

In paragraph 9 of the Action, claims 12, 14, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179) and *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485).

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In paragraph 10 of the Action, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) and *Mori* (US 7,027,179) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485) further in view of *Hernandez* (US 6,650,428).

In paragraph 11 of the Action, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) and *Mori* (US 7,027,179) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485) further in view of *Stefik et al.* (US 2001/00085557).

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 9, and 12 have been amended to clarify the features of the invention.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration. With the amendments on claims 1, 9, and 12, all of pending claims 1 to 19 are not anticipated by or unpatentable over the cited references for the reasons explained below.

As recited in amended claim 1, an image forming apparatus comprises a data collecting section to reduce data of a plurality of pages and create collected data collected in one single medium; a specific information creating section to create specific information applied to the one single medium; and a data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in amended claim 1 includes the data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data, so that

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one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print one single image of the specific information over the pages without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

Gillihan et al. has disclosed an iconic printer interface providing document composition features.

In *Gillihan et al.*, it is simply mentioned that a user specified watermark may be overlaid on selected pages within the document. In the Action, the examiner conceded that *Gillihan et al.* does not teach the specific information covering at least two of the pages.

For supporting the above teaching, the examiner cited *Mori* as stating "specific information is displayed without reduction [See 27 of Fig. 2, box may be unchecked where watermark is not set individually on each page but the whole print page outputted (29)]".

According to *Mori*, if the user wishes to form a different watermark for each of the plurality of pages, the user checks on a checkbox 27a in a watermark page setting box 27. When the checkbox 27a is checked, the settings indicated on the watermark page setting box 27 are selected in priority over the settings indicated on the watermark print setting box 24, so if the user wishes to use the settings indicated in the watermark print setting box 24, then the user leaves the checkbox 27a unchecked or removes a checkmark from the checkbox 27a. (col. 5, lines 31 to 39)

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Further, according to *Mori*, if the user wishes to form the watermark on the first page only, then the user checks a checkbox 25 in a watermark print setting box 24. In this way, the selected watermark is set for the first page only, and no watermark is set for the rest of the pages. On the other hand, if the user wishes to form the watermark on all of the pages, then the user leaves the checkbox 25 unchecked or removes a checkmark from the checkbox 25. In this way, the selected watermark is set in common for all the pages. (col. 5, lines 12 to 21)

As apparent from the above description, in *Mori*, the checkbox 25 is checked or unchecked to print the watermark on the first page only or each of all the pages.

In the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in amended claim 1, the data editing section overlaps the specific information with the collected data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print one single image of the specific information over the pages without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

In *Mori*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, *Mori* does not teach the specific feature of the invention recited in claim 1.

As recited in amended claim 9, an image forming apparatus comprises an image creating section to create image data of a

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plurality of pages; a specific information creating section to create specific information overlapped with the image data so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages; a specific information inverting section to invert the specific information; and a data transmitting section to output the specific information inverted in the specific information inverting section and the image data.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in amended claim 9 includes the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print one single image of the specific information over the pages without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

In the rejection of claim 9 in the Action, the examiner cited *Mori* for supporting the teaching of the specific information creating section.

However, as explained for claim 1, in *Mori*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, *Mori* does not teach the specific feature of the invention recited in claim 9.

As recited in amended claim 12, an image forming apparatus comprises an image creating section to create image data of a

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plurality of pages from document data; a document information extracting section to extract document information from the document data; a specific information creating section to create specific information from the document information extracted by the document information extracting section, the specific information being overlapped with the image data so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages; and a data transmitting section to output the specific information and the image data.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in amended claim 12 includes the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print one single image of the specific information over the pages without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

Here, similar to claim 9, in the rejection of claim 12 in the Action, the examiner cited *Mori* for supporting the teaching of the specific information creating section.

Again, as explained for claims 1 and 9, in *Mori*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, *Mori* does not teach the specific feature of the invention recited in claim 12.

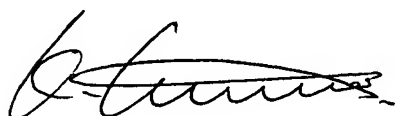
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As explained above, the combination of the cited references does not render claims 1, 9, and 12 unpatentable.

The credit card payment form in the amount of \$810 has been attached herewith.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kazunao Kubotera', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kazunao Kubotera

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